



FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBES

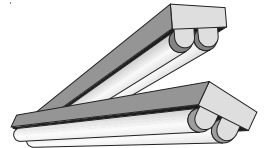
There are currently two types of fluorescent tubes on the market: standard tubes and low-mercury tubes.

Why are standard fluorescent light tubes a problem?

- ⊙ ***Standard fluorescent light tubes are not allowed in the Lincoln landfill!***
- ⊙ Standard fluorescent light tubes contain enough mercury to pose health hazards to humans and animals.
- ⊙ Mercury will evaporate and volatilize in the atmosphere. Breathing air contaminated with mercury can cause nerve damage, liver damage, blindness and brain damage. Unborn and very young children are at the highest risk.
- ⊙ Mercury can enter drinking water supplies, lakes, rivers and streams, threatening aquatic life, plants, animals and humans.
- ⊙ Mercury has the ability to build up in tissues of aquatic organisms to the point that consumption of fish is hazardous to birds, mammals, and humans.

What are low-mercury fluorescent light tubes?

- ⊙ Low-mercury tubes contain 40% to 50% less mercury than standard tubes. This quantity of mercury is assured by the process used to inject mercury into each tube. This process is an example of source reduction.
- ⊙ Low-mercury tubes pass the Toxicity Characteristic Leachate Test (TCLP)—a test that certain wastes must pass before they can be discarded in a landfill.
- ⊙ Low-mercury tubes can be discarded in the Lincoln landfill as special waste.
- ⊙ Low-mercury tubes are made by various manufacturers. They have green tips or green printing that indicates they are alto or ECO tubes.
- ⊙ All mercury tubes must be reported on each business's special waste inventory, even if that business generates less than 43 lbs per month.
- ⊙ Quantities *less* than 43 lbs of low-mercury tubes per month may be placed in the landfill without a permit. A permit will be required if *more* than 43 lbs of low-mercury tubes per month are disposed in the landfill. (Forty-three lbs is the equivalent of approximately 114 four-foot T12 tubes per month.)
- ⊙ Contact the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8021 to obtain a permit for the low-mercury tubes.



How does the cost of low-mercury tubes compare to the cost of standard tubes?

- ⊙ Prices of low-mercury tubes are approximately the same as standard tubes. Check with distributors to compare prices between each type of tube.
- ⊙ The energy requirements are the same for each type of tube.
- ⊙ Disposal costs are typically 25 cents per foot for standard tubes; this cost and extra handling time can be eliminated by using low-mercury tubes.
- ⊙ Recycling may be more cost effective than paying for a permit if your business generates more than 43 lbs of fluorescent tubes per month.



Where can low-mercury fluorescent light tubes be obtained?

- ⊙ Several local vendors sell low-mercury tubes (see the list below). Each vendor usually distributes only Phillips (Alto green tips), General Electric (Ecolux ECO), or Osram-Sylvania (Ecologic ECO) products.
- ⊙ Check with each vendor to make sure the tube you need is available as a low-mercury product.
- ⊙ The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department does not endorse or recommend any specific manufacturer or vendor.

Consolidated Electrical Distributors 2611 Kimco Dr., Suite 1 465-5151	Crescent Electric 540 Westgate Boulevard 476-2712	Grainger Industrial Supply 100 Oak Creek Drive 476-9014
Husker Electric Supply 3450 Cornhusker Highway 467-4624	Voss Lighting 5200 South 16 Street 328-2283	Wesco Distribution, Inc. 3100 N 33 Street 467-5311

Where can I take fluorescent light tubes and other mercury waste to be recycled?

- ☉ Recyclers of fluorescent tubes and other mercury wastes are listed below.
- ☉ Contact the companies directly for information regarding shipping, containers, or costs.
- ☉ Each company may offer additional services other than those listed below.
- ☉ The Lincoln–Lancaster County Health Department does not endorse or recommend any specific vendor.

Company	Contact	Wastes Collected
A-Tec Recycling PO Box 7391 Des Moines, IA 50309	Larry Young (800) 551-4912	lighting waste, ballasts, and some mercury items
A to Z Recycle 264 Road 1 Columbus, NE 68601	Kenneth Babel (402) 563-1048	will not collect treated lumber, pigments, spill kits
Mercury Waste Solutions, Inc. 2007 West County Rd, C-2 Roseville, MN 55113-1211	Dennis P. McNaughton (651) 628-9370	all of the wastes listed on the right.
Midwest Recycling & Mercury Recovery 3224 Kingsley Way Madison, WI 53713	Curtis Mortrud (800) 251-7646	will also collect transformers, most radioactive waste, coils, and capacitors.
Veolia Environmental Svcs 1275 Mineral Springs Dr. Port Washington, WI 53074	Deanna Chycner (800) 831-2852	all of the wastes listed on the right.
Safety Kleen 13915 A Plaza Omaha, NE 68144	Dean Raven (402) 333-6321	all of the wastes listed on the right.

Which solid wastes contain mercury?

- ☒ Fluorescent light tubes
- ☒ High intensity discharge (HID) lamps or bulbs
- ☒ Thermometers
- ☒ Barometers
- ☒ Pigments
- ☒ Dental Amalgams
- ☒ Special Paper Coatings
- ☒ Mercury Switches
- ☒ Filmpack Batteries
- ☒ Button Batteries
- ☒ Blood Pressure Gauges
- ☒ Manometers
- ☒ Dialysis Pharmaceuticals
- ☒ Mercury Chlorides
- ☒ Specific Contaminated Soils
- ☒ Mercury Spills
- ☒ Contaminated (used) Spill Kits
- ☒ Pressure Treated Lumber
- ☒ Non-PCB and PCB Ballast

- ☉ Fluorescent light tubes can also be brought to LLCHD-sponsored Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Collections. Watch your mail for announcements of events in the spring and fall of each year or call 441-8021 for more information.